

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-27. Canceled

28. (New) A dosage form for topical treatment of a bacterial, viral or fungal infection in a patient in need thereof, said dosage form comprising:

a pharmaceutically acceptable acidifying agent, wherein said acidifying agent is an organic acid,

a pharmaceutically acceptable source of nitrite ions, in an amount effective when combined with said acidifying agent to treat said infection, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent therefor,

wherein said acidifying agent and said source of nitrite ions are separately disposed for admixture to release nitrite ions at the intended environment of use and wherein said acidifying agent is present in an amount sufficient to establish a pH at an environment of use below 4.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein source of nitrite ions is an alkaline metal nitrite or an alkaline earth metal nitrite.

30. (New) The dosage form of claim 28, wherein said organic acid is salicylic acid or ascorbic acid.

31. (New) The dosage form of claim 28, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable source of nitrite ions is sodium nitrite.

32. (New) The dosage form of claim 27, wherein the dosage form is a cream or ointment and wherein the acidifying agent and the source of nitrate ions are separately disposed in the cream or ointment.